

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A chewing gum composition for removing stains from dental surfaces comprising a gum base and a stain removing effective amount of at least two stain removing components selected from a peroxide compound, a polyphosphate, and an anionic surfactant said stain removing components not being materially bound to the gum base.

Claim 2 (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the peroxide compound is selected from the group consisting of carbamide peroxide, hydrogen peroxide, calcium peroxide, sodium peroxide, strontium peroxide, zinc peroxide, magnesium peroxide and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the polyphosphate is selected from the group consisting of tripolyphosphates, tetrapolyphosphates, pyrophosphates, hexametaphosphates and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (original): The composition of claim 3 wherein the polyphosphate is selected from the group consisting of water soluble alkali metal polyphosphates.

Claim 5 (original): The composition of claim 4 wherein the polyphosphate is selected from the group consisting of sodium tripolyphosphate, potassium

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tripolyphosphate, sodium potassium tripolyphosphate, sodium hexametaphosphate, tetrasodium pyrophosphate, sodium acid pyrophosphate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6 (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the polyphosphate is present in a stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 7 (original): The composition of claim 6 wherein the polyphosphate is present in a stain removing effective amount of from about 0.1% to 3% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 8 (original): The composition of claim 7 wherein the polyphosphate is present in a stain removing effective amount of from about 1.0% to 3% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 9 (original): The composition of claim 1 where the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sulfated butyl oleate, medium and long chain fatty acid esters and salts, sodium and potassium salts of stearate and palmitate and methyl and ethyl esters thereof, sodium oleate, salts of fumaric acid, potassium glomate, organic acid esters of mono- and diglycerides, stearyl monoglyceridyl citrate, succistearin, dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate, glycerol tristearate, lecithin, hydroxylated lecithin, sodium lauryl sulfate, acetylated monoglycerides, succinylated monoglycerides, monoglyceride citrate, ethoxylated mono- and diglycerides, sorbitan

monostearate, calcium stearyl-2-lactylate, sodium stearyl lactylate, lactylated fatty acid esters of glycerol and propylene glycerol, glycerol-lactoesters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, propylene glycol alginate, sucrose C₈-C₂₄ fatty acid esters, diacetyl tartaric and citric acid esters of mono- and diglycerides, triacetin, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The composition of claim 1 where the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sulfated butyl oleate, medium and long chain fatty acid esters and salts, sodium and potassium stearate and palmitate, organic acid esters of mono- and diglycerides, ethoxylated mono- and diglycerides, lactylated fatty acid esters of glycerol and propylene glycerol, glycerol-lactoesters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of C₈-C₂₄ fatty acids, sucrose C₈-C₂₄ fatty acid esters, diacetyl tartaric and citric acid esters of mono- and diglycerides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sodium stearate, potassium stearate, sodium palmitate, potassium palmitate, sodium oleate, glycerol stearate, glycerol lactate, glycerol stearate lactate, sucrose monostearate, sucrose distearate, sucrose monolaurate, sucrose dilaurate, polyglycerol esters of monostearate, polyglycerol esters of monolaurate, glycerol-lactoesters of C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acids, sucrose C₁₄-C₂₀ fatty acid esters, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (original): The composition of claim 1 where the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sodium stearate, sodium palmitate, citric acid esters of mono- and diglycerides, lactic acid esters of mono- and diglycerides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The composition of claim 1 wherein said anionic surfactant is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to 2.0% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 14 (original): The composition of claim 13 wherein the amount of the anionic surfactant is from about 0.4% to 1.2% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 1 in the form of a confectionery, said anionic surfactant being present in an amount of from about 0.1% to 20% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 15 wherein the amount of the anionic surfactant is from about 3% to 15% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 17 (canceled without prejudice).

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of mouthwashes, mouth sprays, toothpastes, tooth powders, tooth gels, dental creams, dental flosses, liquids, gels, and oral film forming dentifrices.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 1 in the form of a dentifrice, said anionic surfactant being present in an amount of from about 0.01% to 20% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 20 (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the peroxide compound is present in a stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 21 (original): The composition of claim 20 wherein the peroxide compound is present in a stain removing effective amount of from about 0.1% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 22 (original): The composition of claim 21 wherein the peroxide compound is present in a stain removing effective amount of from about 0.2% to 3% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The composition of claim 1, wherein:

the peroxide compound is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the composition; and

the polyphosphate is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The composition of claim 1, wherein:

the peroxide compound is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the composition; and

the anionic surfactant is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.1% to 2.0% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The composition of claim 1, wherein:

the polyphosphate is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition; and

the anionic surfactant is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.1% to 2.0% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 1 in the form of a confectionery, wherein:

the peroxide compound is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the composition; and
the polyphosphate is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 1 in the form of a confectionery, wherein:

the polyphosphate is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition; and
the anionic surfactant is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.1% to 20.0% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 1 in the form of a confectionery, wherein:

the peroxide compound is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.01% to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the composition; and
the anionic surfactant is present in the stain removing effective amount of from about 0.1% to 20.0% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 29 (original): The composition of claim 1 further comprising an encapsulating substance for encapsulating the peroxide compound within the composition.

Claim 30 (original): The composition of claim 29 wherein the encapsulating substance is selected from the group consisting of natural gums, synthetic gums, edible oils, polymers, olefin copolymers, resins, waxes, mineral oils, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 31 and 32 (canceled without prejudice).

Claim 33 (original): A method of removing stains from dental surfaces comprising administering a stain removing effective amount of the composition of claim 1 to the oral cavity of a warm-blooded animal including humans for contact with the dental surfaces thereof.

Claim 34 (cancel without prejudice)

Claim 35 (previously presented): The composition of claim 1 containing a polyphosphate and an anionic surfactant as stain removing agents.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 35 in the form of a confectionery composition.

Claims 37 and 38 (cancel without prejudice).

Claim 39 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 1 further comprising a coating.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 39 wherein the stain removing components are at least in the coating.

Claim 41 (canceled without prejudice).

Claim 42 (currently amended): The chewing gum composition of claim [41] 1 wherein the stain removing components are not mixed directly with the gum base.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 1 comprising a core wherein the stain removing components are at least in the core.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 1 wherein the chewing gum composition is a centerfill chewing gum composition.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 44 wherein the stain removing components are at least in the centerfill.

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Claim 46 (previously presented): The chewing gum composition of claim 44 wherein the stain removing components are at least outside the centerfill.